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arable loss of prestige on the part of the desecrated sanctuaries and a corresponding increase for the temple at Jerusalem. The result would naturally be a desertion of the local shrines by many in favor of Jerusalem.

Upon questions such as these there will always be more or less of difference of opinion. But the author's approach to the task and his method of operations are admirable; and these are the important things. The book is so written as to appeal to the layman of intelligence, while at the same time it is well worth the attention of careful students.

The Christian Doctrine of Prayer. "The Great Christian Doctrine" series, edited by James Hastings, D.D. New York: Scribner, 1915. Pp. 1+448. \$3.00.

This volume on prayer is thoroughly modern in its point of view and profoundly spiritual throughout. The treatment of such problems as the scientific and philosophical objections to prayer is ably handled in a manner that reveals the spirit of a student who has an open mind and withal a profoundly reverent spirit. The volume abounds in quotations from leaders in religious, scientific, and philosophical circles. The book compels the reader to become a student of the subject, and he in turn will be furnished with splendid material usable especially in the pulpit. If the successes in this series maintain the high standard set by this initial volume, the publishers will render a great service to the ministry that is trying to keep abreast of the times.

The Ephesian Gospel. By Percy Gardner. New York: Putnam, 1915. Pp. xi+362. \$1.50.

This readable and informing book is a sequel to the same author's *The Religious Experience of St. Paul*, which appeared four years ago. The Gospel of John, here called the "Ephesian" Gospel, is regarded as the "greatest work of the Pauline School."

Three preliminary chapters are taken up with a description of ancient Ephesus. The economic, cultural, and religious conditions of the city are briefly but clearly described. A fusion of Greek and Asiatic elements is observed in the life of this ancient metropolis. Christianity, which added another element to the complex life of the city, was established chiefly through the activity of Paul; and after Paul's day Ephesus continued to be an important seat of the new religion.

Following these introductory matters the author turns to the Gospel itself. He does not attempt to orient the reader in the vast modern literature of the subject, but to acquaint him

with the well-established conclusions of critical scholarship. The views adopted are essentially those of Moffatt's well-known *Introduction*. The writer of this Gospel is seen to have a very different notion of biography from that which prevails today. His notion corresponds with the ideas and customs current in antiquity and illustrated by a number of documents still extant, the dominant interest of which is to edify the reader by exalting the personality of the individual whose career is narrated.

The content of the Gospel is expounded at some length. Its basis is found in the Christian experience of its author, and its distinctive teaching is discussed under the following captions: "The Doctrine of the Spirit," "Eschatology," "Eternal Life," "The Sacraments," "Judaism and the Gospel," "The Church and the World," "Teaching and Ethics," "Miracle," and "Christology." In these sections on interpretation Gardner follows quite closely E. F. Scott's *The Fourth Gospel: Its Purpose and Theology*. Probably some readers will regret that more account has not been taken of Hellenistic mysticism and its bearing upon the exposition of this Gospel.

A concluding chapter deals with "The Gospel and Modernity." While the Synoptics are thought to be more valuable than John as historical sources for the words and deeds of Jesus, the modern worth of the Fourth Gospel is seen especially in its freedom from the letter. It gives us an interpretation of Jesus suited to the intellectual conditions of our thinking: "We are driven, like our Evangelist, from letter to spirit, from reliance on a life lived in space and time to reliance on a life which is eternal in heaven."

Old Testament History. By Ismar J. Peritz. (Bible-Study Textbook Series.) New York: Abingdon Press, 1915. Pp. 336. \$1.50.

This volume represents the Old Testament element in a series of textbooks upon the Bible published by the Abingdon Press, the name now carried by the publishing agencies of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The point of view and method of the volume are frankly in sympathy with the principles of modern historical Bible-study. Yet the author is cautious and conservative in the presentation of his conclusions. The book is organized on a textbook basis, each chapter being subdivided into sections and provided with lists of questions and topics for study. Five maps, belonging to the Kent and Madsen series, and selected lists of books add to the book's usefulness. It would have made the supplementary books of far greater value, in the work, if special references from them had been attached to the discussion of the various main topics. The work seems well within the range of the average college student's time and ability and ought to carry his interest along as